

# DARE TO DREAM

The official newsletter of WinVinaya Foundation



## HIGHLIGHTS AT WINVINAYA

### WINVINAYA ACADEMY

#### WON AN AWARD FOR INNOVATION

WinVinaya Academy was honored with the “Best Assistive Technology Initiative by NGO’s Award” from ATF. WinVinaya Academy (WVA) provides 24/7 access to diverse courses like full stack Software Development, Software Testing, Microsoft Power BI, MS Office, Tally, English, and more. WVA is inclusive - it offers courses in Indian Sign Language and simple English to benefit people across disabilities, women, and other marginalized community. The user-friendly platform delivers content through concise videos, fostering a unique learning environment that encourages mistakes, relearning, and assessment sessions for better comprehension.

WinVinaya Academy has 50+ courses and keeps growing and improving. We are pleased to announce the addition of a new Indian Sign Language (ISL) learning course to WinVinaya Academy. Since 90% of our deaf candidates have hearing parents who don’t know sign language, this course will benefit a variety of stakeholders – including educators, parents, corporate employees who want to learn the basics of ISL.

We thank you for all your support and look forward to your continued guidance to amplify our social impact and continue to make strides in learning and inclusivity.

### COLLABORATING WITH

#### ZOHO CREATOR TEAM FOR

#### TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM

Zoho Creator is one of the top selling products from Zoho. This is a low code, no code platform which can be taught to persons who are visual learners – like persons with Hearing and Speech Impairment. Zoho Creator team visited WinVinaya and trained our trainers through their Young Creators Program (YCP). This training enables us to create tailored modules for Persons with Disabilities using Zoho Creator, fostering employment opportunities, and providing skilled employees to Zoho partners. Such collaborations exemplify our commitment to building a more inclusive world.



**E-Mail: [Info@WinVinayaFoundation.org](mailto:Info@WinVinayaFoundation.org)**

## COLLABORATING WITH IIITB ON A RESEARCH STUDY

WinVinaya Foundation, in collaboration with International Institute of Information Technology, (IIIT) Bengaluru, spearheaded a research study to explore the use of Android phones as Assistive Technology for individuals with disabilities. At Adarsh College, Bengaluru, WinVinaya team conducted a week-long training for students with hearing and speech impairment. Additionally, WinVinaya provided specialized training for persons with visual impairment who are first time smart phone users on how to use assistive technologies like talk back on smartphones. We have trained 100+ candidates already and we will continue to train more candidates in the new year. Such collaboration is the key to unlocking a future where technology empowers Persons with Disabilities.



## MITRA RUN: AN INCLUSIVE MARATHON

On December 3rd, in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, WinVinaya actively engaged in an inclusive marathon held at the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru, organized by the Eka Educational and Charitable Trust.

A remarkable turnout of over 35 members from the WinVinaya Foundation family, participated in the 5K run, joined by individuals across the disability spectrum and their allies. The event served as a powerful reminder of the significance and urgency of fostering inclusion and diversity.

Being part of this gathering provided a unique opportunity to interact with inspiring personalities who are persons with disabilities. Their stories and achievements served as a profound source of motivation, fueling our determination to pursue our dreams and passions. It was an enlightening experience that resonated with the core values of WinVinaya.

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING AND DISABILITY AWARENESS ORIENTATION

WinVinaya Foundation provides training and placement assistance to individuals with disabilities. As part of our journey, we actively collaborate with corporate partners, involving them in immersive volunteering experiences. These events serve as opportunities for corporates to connect with the disability community, fostering a deeper understanding of the importance of inclusion and diversity in a corporate environment.

This month, volunteers from Wells Fargo enthusiastically joined us to contribute to our mission. They conducted mock interviews specifically tailored for persons with hearing and speech impairments. This direct experience not only allowed the volunteers to understand the deaf community but also provided candidates with invaluable exposure to real-time corporate interviews.

We successfully completed training for seven candidates with hearing and speech impairments this month. We conducted a valedictory event (organized by the candidates themselves) that included a disability awareness orientation, an introduction to the basics of sign language, dance, and drama. This event was graced by the guests from Wells Fargo. The event was not only educational but also fun and interactive, creating an atmosphere that celebrated the abilities of persons with disabilities.

This month, WinVinaya organized an experiential Disability Awareness Orientation session at Infosys. Through our "ISL Sprint" program—Employees of Infosys learnt the basics of Indian Sign Language in just 15 minutes. Through our "Sensory Safari" program, they played tactile games with our employees with visual impairment. Such fun learning with persons with disabilities sparks honest talks, opens hearts and builds an inclusive, joyful workplace.

Inspired by this impactful experience, we urge all companies to embrace similar sessions. Let us collectively promote inclusion and work towards creating a more accessible world.

## HUMANS OF WINVINAYA



### Season's Greetings to All!

This month unfolds with a tapestry of hope, joy, and celebration, inviting warmth and togetherness into every heart. At WinVinaya, we embraced this festive season with heartfelt gratitude and a commitment to inclusion.

In this edition of Humans of WinVinaya, we illuminate our unique Christmas celebration—a testament to our dedication to diversity and inclusion. Our festivities commenced early in the month with the distribution of Secret Santa chits among all associates, culminating in a joyous celebration on December 19th.

The heart of our celebration lies in inclusion, as employees with and without disabilities joined hands in revelry. The event commenced with a collective dance to the harmonious tunes of carols. Imagine persons with hearing and speech impairments, locomotor disabilities, visual impairments, leprosy-cured, and intellectual disabilities, along with those without disabilities, dancing together. The genuine joy was palpable as everyone eagerly unwrapped their Secret Santa gifts, fostering a spirit of unity.

Adding a unique touch to our festivities, Santa Claus made a memorable appearance during the Christmas celebration. What set our Santa apart was that he had a hearing and speech impairment. Did this diminish our enjoyment? Not at all! Our Santa brought full-on fun, infusing the Christmas spirit into our hearts through dance and laughter.

Perhaps you are wondering how a Santa with a hearing impairment could dance. The answer lies in the simple truth that everyone, regardless of abilities, finds their unique way to enjoy life. It is about believing in oneself and embracing individuality.

At WinVinaya, the celebration is a testament to the fact that barriers of disability do not hinder anyone from enjoying life to the fullest. The festivities concluded with a delectable feast, filling both hearts and tummies.

This festive season let us collectively infuse the world with the essence of inclusion in every joyous aspect. It is the subtle differences in thoughts and words that make a significant impact. Let us aspire for the best and work towards making the world a better place for all!

**Please scan the QR Code provided to access the sign language video of this newsletter**

